

Water Systems and Water Rights

There are numerous canals located on the park property, not all of which are used. These canals originate in one of four locations: the river near Last Chance, the river just above Osborne Bridge, from Fish Pond and from the Middle Fork and the East Fork of Thurmon Creek. The water sources provide irrigation, sustain wetland habitats and provide watering for stock.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation currently controls the following water rights on the Harriman properties. (See Chart 3.1)

Scenic Inventory

The scenic resources at Harriman State Park of Idaho are exceptional and are some of the most impressive found in the region. Background views to the Tetons from Railroad Ranch and Harriman East are outstanding. These magnificent peaks provide a spectacular backdrop and can be seen from the ranch complex and from most areas along the Henrys Fork. Middleground views consists primarily of the densely forested slopes of the caldera rim and surrounding uplands. The meadows north of the ranch property also provide excellent middleground and foreground views looking to and from the ranch and Highway 20. The park offers a diversity of landscapes and scenic experiences including open grassland valleys and forested mountains set against high

snow covered mountain backdrops.

Several prominent view corridors can also be found atop Thurmon Ridge, along Green Canyon Road. This road provides an excellent vantage point looking east towards the Tetons and west over Island Park Reservoir.

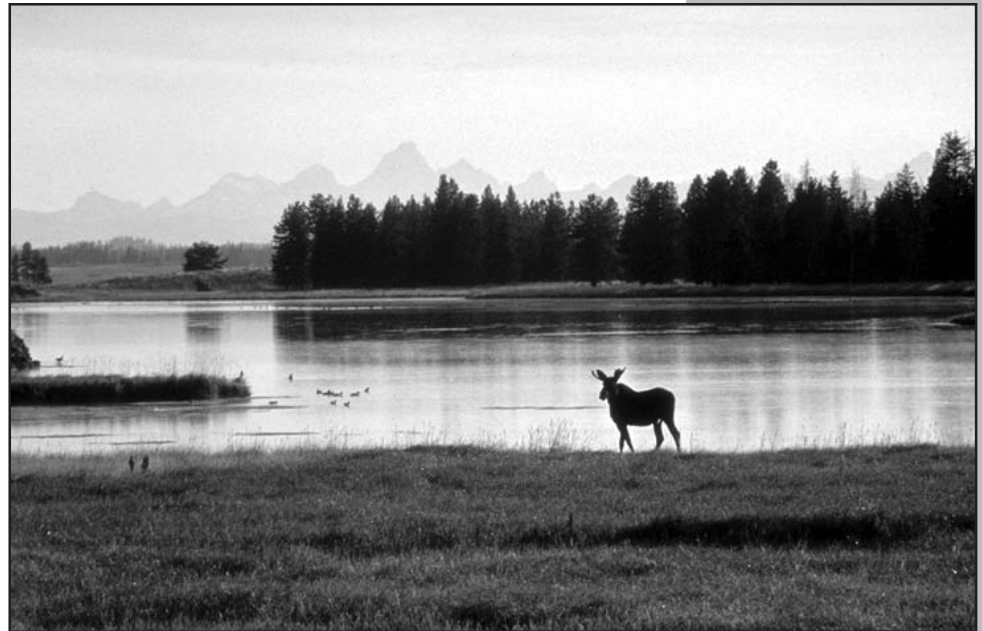


Table of Contents

Chapter IV. Human Systems Survey

County Comprehensive Plans & Ordinances	IV-1
Fremont County Comprehensive Plan	IV-1
Associated Planning Documents	IV-2
Initial Park Development Plan	IV-2
Adjacent Land Ownership	IV-3
Local Transportation Network	IV-4
Existing Utility Infrastructure	IV-4
Potable Water Supply	IV-4
Sewage Disposal	IV-4
Electricity	IV-4
Telephone Service	IV-4
Facilities Inventory and Staffing	IV-5
Park Headquarters/Visitor Center	IV-5
Park Maintenance Buildings	IV-5
Recreation Facilities	IV-5
Current Park Staffing	IV-7
Existing Land Use Agreements	IV-7
Gift Deed	IV-7
Concessionaire	IV-8
Grazing Leases	IV-8
Easements	IV-8
Historical & Cultural Resources	IV-8
Eco-heritage Tourism	IV-9
Historical Buildings & Structures	IV-9
Family/Guest Dwellings & Dining Facilities	IV-10
Staff Dwellings & Food Preparation	IV-10
Barns & Sheds	IV-11
Ancillary Structures	IV-12
Archaeology	IV-13



County Comprehensive Plans and Ordinances

Lands within Harriman State Park of Idaho lie wholly within Fremont County; therefore new development within the park comes under review by the Fremont County Planning and Zoning Commission in accordance with Section 67-6528 of the Local Planning Act.

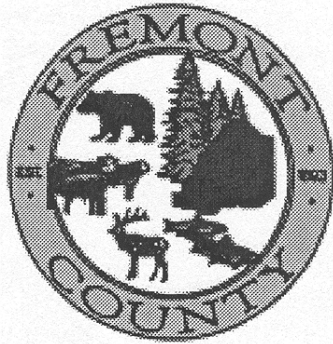
Fremont County Comprehensive Plan

The Fremont County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1997. It is divided between the Island Park, North Fremont and South Fremont Planning Areas. Harriman State Park of Idaho falls within the Island Park planning area. The following policies from the Fremont County Comprehensive Plan address elements that should be considered in the Harriman State Park of Idaho master plan.

Policy 9. Maintain the Island Park Area's Natural Assets – It shall be the policy of Fremont County to maintain the natural assets upon which the resort economy and recreational amenities of the Island Park Planning Area are based. The county shall also direct development away from naturally hazardous areas.

Policy 11. Protect Visual Resources and Enhance the Community's Image – It shall be the policy of Fremont County to maintain and enhance the traditional resort character of the Island Park Planning Area by directing development away from visually sensitive areas and adopting design standards for commercial buildings and signs.

11.B The County will use its development code to encourage the provision of underground utilities wherever practical. See FCD VIII.HH.



11.C Fremont County will encourage the design of commercial areas, signs and buildings to be compatible with local tradition. This will be done through a combination of development code provisions and the publication of design guidelines.

Also located within the County Comprehensive Plan is the City of Island Park Comprehensive Plan. In it, the city states its vision as, "The City of Island Park should continue to be a peaceful, rustic retreat from urban life; with small-scale resorts and services for residents and visitors in appropriate locations; and abundant open space."

General guidance for land development activities is found in the accompanying Fremont County Development Code.

Associated Planning Documents

In August 1998, the Community Development Plan for Island Park was adopted, granting the city the status of a certified Gem Community. In the Island Park Community Development One-Year Action Plan, dated August 2001, there are two proposals that affect Harriman State Park of Idaho. The first proposal speaks directly to the preferred management concept outlined in this master plan. It recommends the hiring of a recreational planner to “research the feasibility of an Island Park network of bicycle and OHV trails that is property signed, maintained and

enforced for compliance.” Suggested partners for this project are Fremont County Parks & Recreation, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Targhee National Forest. The second proposal deals with the possibility of a National Audubon Society nature center in the Island Park area.

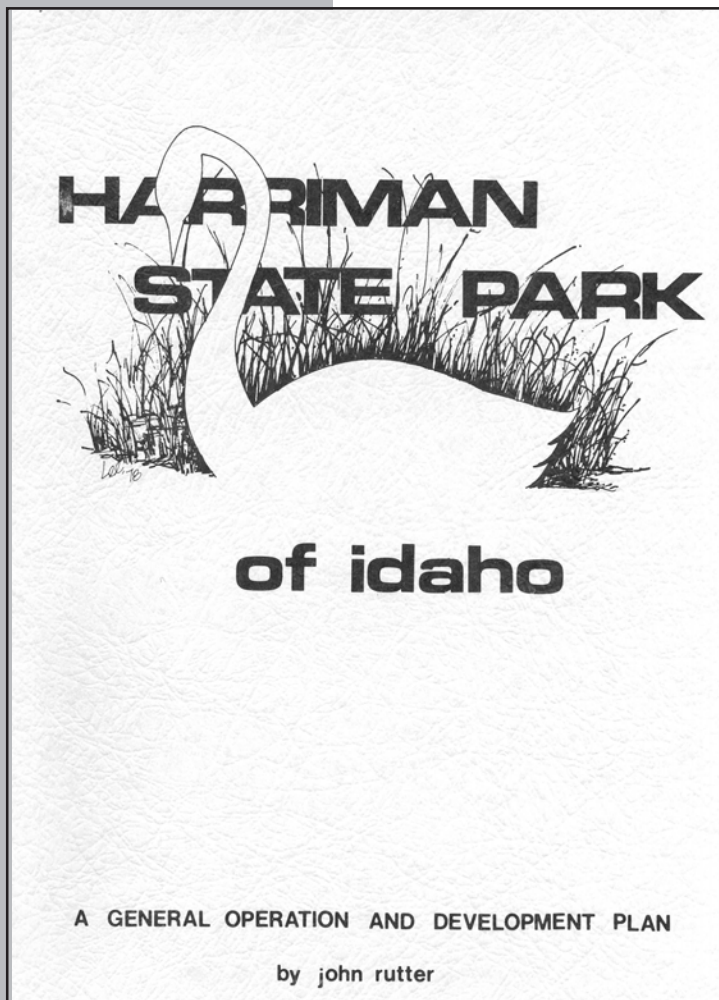
The action plan notes that it “may be the first step towards realizing a major visitor attraction at the north entrance to Harriman State Park.”

Initial Park Development Plan

Prior to the park’s opening in 1982, a General Operation and Development Plan was prepared by John Rutter. That plan was adopted in 1978. The area of consideration for the plan included the Railroad Ranch, Harriman East, the drainage into Silver Lake, the Thurmon Creek drainage, Coyote Gulch and Antelope Park, which is the basic ranch and adjacent leased Forest Service grazing land in the drainages flowing into the ranch from Thurmon Ridge. This was essentially the area E. Roland Harriman requested be established as a state park.

The 1978 plan noted the park’s wildlife, atmosphere of tranquility, natural beauty and renowned fishery as major characteristics of the park’s overall significance. The park was classified as a Natural Park; however, note was made of the “important cultural values which require different management, protection and interpretation” within the park at the ranch headquarters.

Included in the initial operation and development plan were sections addressing natural and cultural resources, interpretive programming and facilities, environmental issues of concern, vehicle circulation, maintenance



standards, grazing, concessions, research, staffing, employee housing, possible land exchanges and/or prioritized land acquisitions, and cooperative management with the Forest Service on lands surrounding the park.

The plan was conservative in many of its visitor use proposals. It recommended that “use of resources outside of the headquarters area should be approached cautiously until the effects have been observed and safe limits established.” Primary visitor activities recommended in the plan included: fishing, hiking, bird watching, general wildlife observation, limited picnicking, limited backpacking, walking and viewing, photography, interpretive programs and environmental center activities. Additional visitor activity recommendations included horseback riding and a small camping area near Fish Pond on Harriman East. Because of possible conflicts between skiers and the Trumpeter Swan, cross-country skiing was initially discouraged in the plan until such time as “research determines that the uses are compatible.”

A shuttle bus was proposed to provide access to ranch headquarters from a staging area off Green Canyon road in the southeast corner of the park. The plan recommended that no private vehicles, except employee and service vehicles, be permitted beyond the staging area during the normal travel season when the park is open to the public. The plan further recommended that a fee be charged for the shuttle bus ride to

all but school groups, disabled persons and senior citizens.

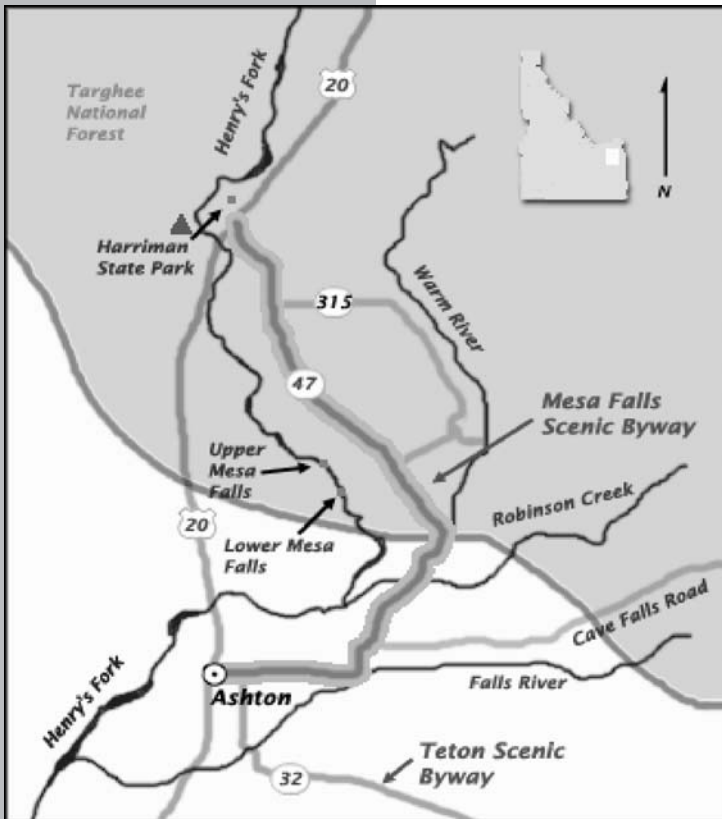
The plan called for maintenance of the rustic character of the ranch in all developments. It also placed heavy emphasis on environmental education. Developments were prioritized in a series of 14 packages.

Adjacent Land Ownership

Harriman State Park of Idaho is surrounded almost entirely by public land. (See Map 2-A.) The Idaho Department of Lands owns 240 acres north of the Henrys Fork that runs along a portion of the east boundary of the Railroad Ranch and the Harriman East property. It is bisected by U.S. Highway 20. The Department of Lands also owns a large parcel of land that lies adjacent to the west boundary of the Sheridan Ranch. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management owns much of the land along the northern boundary of the Sheridan Ranch, as well as nearly half of the land along the western boundary of Sheridan. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owns the land at the bottom of the Island Park Reservoir to the east of the Sheridan Ranch site, as well as land along the shoreline to the south. The Targhee National Forest owns the vast remainder of public land surrounding the park. Private landowners adjacent to the park include the Pinehaven subdivision at Harriman East’s southern-most boundary on the west side of the Henrys Fork and a small piece of private land at Last Chance on the south side of the Henrys Fork to the north. At Sheridan Ranch, there are also private land ownerships

adjacent to the park on the east and a portion of the northern boundary.

Local Transportation Network



U.S. Highway 20, which traverses the United States from Boston, Massachusetts to Newport, Oregon is the major transportation arterial through the Island Park region. Highway 20 dissects the park and divides the Railroad Ranch from the Harriman East property. It is estimated that 2,000,000 vehicles travel

this route annually, many of them on their way to or from Yellowstone National Park.

State Highway 47 is a 28-mile-long secondary road that travels from Ashton to a point just north of the Railroad Ranch entrance to Harriman State Park of Idaho. In 1989 it was designated the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway. Major reconstruction work was completed on the roadway in 1999.

Existing Utility Infrastructure

Potable Water Supply

All potable water at the site is supplied from the natural spring on

Thurmon Ridge. It is piped into the ranch complex and on to the park headquarters site through a gravity flow system.

Sewage Disposal

The buildings in the ranch complex are tied together on a sand mound wastewater treatment system located east of the dormitory parking lot. The headquarters building, maintenance shop and two residences near the shop are each on their own septic system with individual drainfields. The headquarters drainfield is located southeast of the building. The shop drainfield is located northeast of the building. The manager's residence drainfield is located east of the building and the ranger's residence drainfield is located south of the building.

Electricity

Electricity to the site is supplied by Falls River Electric Co-op. Power is supplied via an underground transmission line. There are 11 meters in the park, four in the park headquarters/administrative site, located at the headquarters/visitor center, park manager's residence, ranger's residence, and shop, and 7 in the ranch complex, located at the Ranch Foreman's House, Cattle Foreman's House, Ranch Office, Bunkhouse, Ranch View and 2 near the dormitory.

Telephone Service – Telephone service to the site is supplied by Fremont TelCom. There are two telephone lines – one voice and one fax/computer line – at park headquarters, one line each to the

two staff residences behind headquarters, and four telephone lines in the ranch building complex, one each at the Jones House, Ranch Office, Ranch Foreman's House and Cattle Foreman's House. There is also a pay telephone located at the park headquarters.

Facilities Inventory and Staffing

Park Headquarters/Visitor Center

The park headquarters building houses the administrative offices of the park and also serves as the year-round visitor center for the park. It provides restrooms, information services and a small retail area. The visitor center parking lot is the trailhead for winter cross-country ski activities.

Park Maintenance Buildings

The park maintenance area is located to the west of the headquarters building and is well hidden from the visitor use areas. This small complex is comprised of three buildings (shop, vehicle and equipment storage building, hazardous materials shed) and several fuel tanks.

Recreation Facilities

Harriman State Park of Idaho offers a wide variety of year-round recreational opportunities and experiences including fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, wildlife photography, limited snowmobiling and non-motorized boating on the Henrys Fork and Fish Pond.

Fly-fishing is certainly the most popular recreational activity in the park. Approximately seven miles of the Henrys Fork is located within Harriman State Park of Idaho. Fishing regulations on the river allow for catch and release fly-fishing only. The Henrys Fork was voted by Trout Unlimited as the number one trout stream in the country. Generally the river attracts the more serious fly fisherman, although many ordinary anglers are drawn by the river's reputation.

To retain the natural character of the river, only a few facilities have been provided for fisherman. These include parking at the Sage Flat fishing access, Ranch View, Osborne boat launch and Last Chance, along with a few picnic tables, restrooms and regulatory signage. For the most part, these facilities have been deemed more than adequate by the fishing community. Most would like to see the fishing experience at Harriman State Park of Idaho remain as pristine as possible without the incursion of additional facilities.

Non-motorized boating is permitted on the Henrys Fork. Drift boats will float the Railroad Ranch stretch of the Henrys Fork. However, wade fishing is more popular because of the slow water. A boat launch is located on Harriman East. This facility is adjacent to Osborne Bridge and includes a boat ramp. Generally, boaters float to the U.S. Forest Service takeout at Riverside Campground. Another takeout point is located further downstream at East Hatchery Ford; however, boaters should take care to check water levels and the condition of the

river before proceeding beyond Riverside Campground.

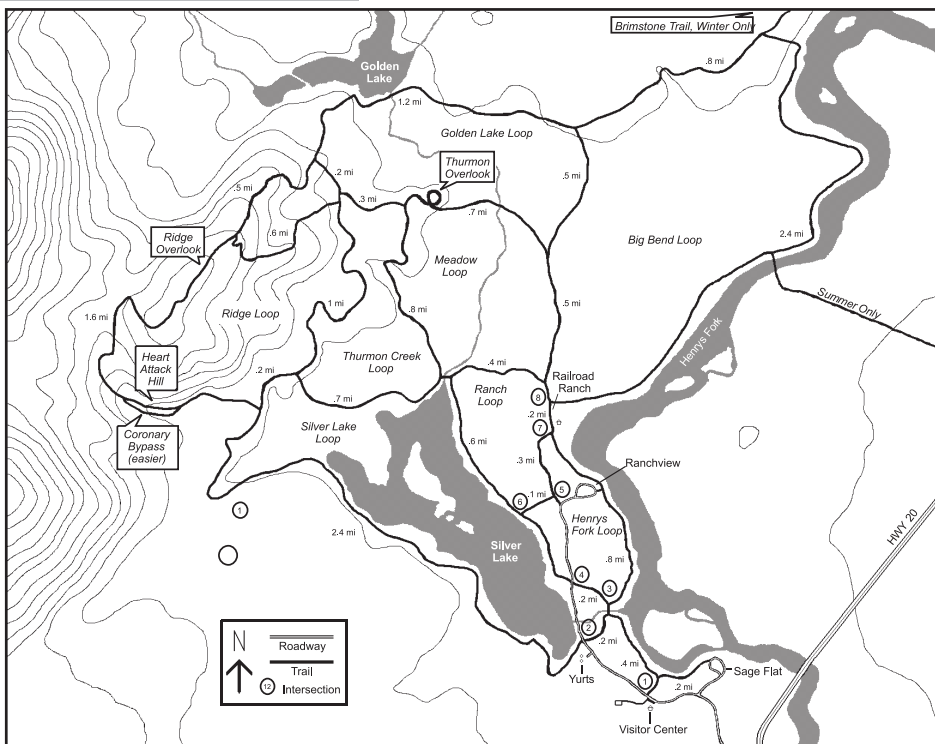
Fishing is also available at Fish Pond on Harriman East. This area receives limited use because it is relatively unknown and it is difficult to access. General fishing regulations apply in addition to permitted non-motorized boating. There are currently no visitor facilities at this site.

Over 20 miles of non-motorized multiple-use trails can be found within the park. These trails range from short half-hour strolls through the ranch complex to more strenuous loop trails accessing remote sections of the park and the adjacent Targhee National Forest. The park's trail system was designed with the wildlife refuge in mind. The trail system offers excellent opportunities to view and photograph wildlife, although efforts have been made to limit the encroachment upon sensitive wildlife areas.

Harriman State Park of Idaho trails are multi-use trails providing for all non-motorized traffic including summer and winter use. The trail system is used throughout the summer and fall by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Most of the equestrian use is through a private concessionaire operating out of the park. In addition to trails, related facilities include: regulatory and directional signage, footbridges, restrooms, and facilities associated with the horse concession (barns, corrals and hitching post).

Currently, no camping is available within the park, although Forest Service campgrounds are located adjacent to the park along the Island Park Reservoir near Sheridan Ranch and Harriman East. The park does provide overnight accommodations in two yurts located near Silver Lake, the 40-person dormitory that sits beside the dude barns at the southern-most end of the historic complex and in the ranch manager's house inside the historic complex.

Harriman State Park of Idaho is a major winter recreation destination in the region. Cross-country skiing at Harriman and snowmobiling in the nearby Targhee National Forest are popular activities. The season usually covers the period from December through March, however in some years November and April have snow conditions that make winter sports possible. The park offers groomed skate and classic cross-country ski trails ranging in difficulty from novice to expert. The 20-plus miles of nordic ski trails within the park link to approximately 15 miles of ski trails in



Non-motorized trail system

the surrounding Targhee National Forest. Parking for skiers is provided at the park headquarters building. Warming facilities are available in the Jones House and at the park headquarters building.

Snowmobiling is a very popular activity in the Island Park area. The Fremont County snowmobile program provides groomed snowmobile trails throughout the Targhee National Forest. There are over 600 miles of maintained trail connecting Island Park to West Yellowstone and the Continental Divide trail system. Currently the park provides a snowmobile access trail across Harriman East and along the north boundary of the Railroad Ranch. All other park trails are for non-motorized use only. Snowmobile parking is provided on Harriman East near the Osborne Bridge.

Current Park Staffing

The full-time Harriman park staff consists of one manager, one assistant manager, one ranger and one office specialist. Harriman State Park of Idaho also oversees the operation of Henrys Lake State Park. Full time Henrys Lake park staff consists of one ranger. During the peak use season (May – September) the park hires 7 seasonal staff members for Harriman, 8 seasonal staffers for Henrys Lake and 4 seasonal staffers for Mesa Falls as part of the cooperative management agreement with the Forest Service.

Existing Land Use Agreements

Gift Deed

Harriman State Park of Idaho was gifted to the State from E. Roland and

W. Averell Harriman on December 4, 1961. The donation from the Harrimans was subject to the following conditions:

1. The name of the park shall be called “Harriman State Park of Idaho.”
2. The Legislature was to establish a professionally staffed career “Park Service whose personnel shall be chosen on the basis of merit alone.”
3. The State was to pay Fremont County a sum of money in lieu of taxes equal to the sum which would have been paid had the property remained in private ownership.
4. Hunting, shooting and trapping by the general public were to be prohibited in the park.
5. Fishing shall be restricted to the use of dry and wet flies only.
6. The bird sanctuary between the Ranch Bridge and Osborne Bridge shall be continued in perpetuity.
7. The property in Lima, Montana that was also donated to the State of Idaho was to be sold and the proceeds used to benefit Harriman State Park of Idaho.
8. The park was to try to expand its boundaries to include “all lands west of the Snake River from the Osborne Bridge to the Island Park Reservoir Dam thence westerly to Green Canyon Road back to the point of beginning.” Within these same boundaries, hunting, shooting and trapping were to be prohibited.
9. Permission was given to “either directly or by concession make such provisions as may seem . . . proper for food, lodging and saddle horses within the park and may also make such arrangements



for forestry, agriculture and cattle raising.

10. Permission was also given to construct and maintain a small aircraft landing strip in the park.

11. E. Roland and Gladys F. Harriman were granted lifetime estates on the property.

A full copy of the gift deed may be found in the appendix, see Appendix 1.

Concessionaire

A concessionaire operates the public horse rides. The existing contract is for a 5-year term. It is due to expire in 2005.

Grazing Leases

Grazing leases have been issued for the Railroad Ranch, Harriman East and Sheridan Ranch units of the park. The Railroad Ranch lease, Lease #696-G-04 is a 10-year lease that will expire on December 31, 2004. It covers 2400 acres and is for an allotment of not less than 500 AUMs, with the maximum amount to

be negotiated. The Harriman East lease, Lease #61.2-G-09 is a 10-year lease that will expire on December 31, 2009. It covers 600 acres and is for an allotment of 650 AUMs. The Sheridan Ranch lease, Lease #697-G-98 is a 10-year lease that will expire on December 31, 2005. It covers 2800 acres and is for an allotment of 3600 AUMs.

Easements

The park holds a 20-year term easement from the Idaho Department of Lands for the concrete boat ramp in the Henrys Fork at the Osborne Bridge. It is Term Easement #6299. It was signed on June 21, 2001 and expires on June 21, 2021.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Due to the intact condition of the ranch complex, the historic buildings at Harriman State Park of Idaho provide an accurate depiction of the ranch and its structures as it was when the Harriman family occupied Railroad Ranch. Currently, seven of the historic buildings are used for interpretation. Extensive artifact collections have been preserved, many of which are on display. These artifacts include household items such as furniture, dishes and family memorabilia. The barns and sheds house other historic pieces such as machinery, wagons, mowers, rakes, plows, as well as tools, packing gear and camping equipment. Significant portions of the ranch are leased for cattle grazing. This activity, along with the horse concession, help to retain the historic character of the ranch.

Within the Railroad Ranch complex are several interpretive exhibits that describe aspects of the Harriman's life at the ranch and the ranching lifestyle. In addition to these exhibits, pamphlets with maps are available for self-guided tours of the ranch. These pamphlets offer a brief history of the ranch and provide a description of each building and its function. During the summer, staff-conducted interpretive tours are also given within the ranch complex.

Eco-heritage Tourism

Harriman State Park of Idaho has one of the most unique locations of eco-heritage tourism anywhere. The park is located in the center of an internationally renowned scenic, environmental and cultural resource area. The site and the surrounding region have a unique combination of natural and cultural resources that clearly embody a heritage area.

The National Park Service defines heritage areas as follows:

A heritage area is a region where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography.

These patterns make heritage areas representative of the state or natural experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in the regions. Continued use of heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

Harriman State Park of Idaho is an incredibly unique heritage resource area on its own merit, however when the park's context is taken into consideration, it clearly captures the spirit and intent for which heritage areas have been defined.

Because of the park's unique location and the significance of area attractions, it is not necessary for Harriman State Park of Idaho to absorb all the uses and activities on-site. Partnerships with regional entities can be established to provide for activities and services to expand the recreation and interpretive potential of the area without over impacting Harriman State Park of Idaho or other area resources.

Historical Buildings and Structures

The Railroad Ranch consists of 32 historic buildings that were built between 1902 and 1957. The historic ranch complex is comprised of dwellings constructed for the Harriman and Jones families, guests and staff. The ranch also contains structures typical of a working ranch including barns, sheds, shops and corrals. Most of the buildings are of log construction on stone foundations. Over the past several years many of the structures have undergone extensive restoration including: the replacement of foundations, upgraded plumbing and the stabilization of roofs and porches. As a result of intensive preservation efforts, the buildings have changed very little in the nearly 30 years since the Harriman family turned the property over to the State.

The historic ranch complex is comprised of the following buildings and building types:

Family/Guest Dwellings & Dining Facilities

Jones House – Charles Jones built this summer house in 1955 to accommodate his family and friends



Charles and Jenny Jones, circa 1956.

when they visited the Railroad Ranch. The most modern structure in the ranch complex, the Jones House featured six bedrooms, four baths and

numerous spacious cabinets.

Boys House – The Boys House is the oldest building on the site, the original structure dating back to 1902. It was obtained by Mary Harriman just before 1917 and used as quarters for her “boys,” Averell and Roland. The downstairs once contained two large sitting rooms, a kitchen area, three bedrooms and a bath. The upstairs was remodeled in the 1950’s with rows of rafters and supports to help reinforce the roof against the snow load. The downstairs was remodeled in 1995 as an educational and meeting center. Public restrooms are located inside the Boys House.

Dining Cottage – The Dining Cottage was used by the Harrimans for guest housing, but primarily for

meal preparation and dining. The Harrimans brought their own domestic staff for their visits, and the bedrooms and bath upstairs were provided for their use. The Dining Cottage is open to the public on guided tours and contains furnishings left by Roland and Gladys Harriman.

Harriman Cottage – The seasonal residence of Roland and Gladys Harriman, this building was constructed on the site of Mary Harriman’s original cottage in 1947. It features a large front room with an immense stone fireplace, two bedrooms with private baths and fireplaces, and a separate tackle room for the gear of the avid fly fisherman and hunter. The interior furnishings were those left in the house in 1977. The house is open to the public on guided tours.

Honeymoon Hotel – Both the Guggenheim and Harriman families brought domestic help from the east for their summer visits. Solomon Guggenheim would house his servants in this building, which was once called Hotel d’Bum. When it was remodeled in 1951 to house a newly married ranch employee and his wife, it was appropriately renamed the Honeymoon Hotel.

Staff Dwellings & Food Preparation

Ranch Foreman’s House – While used as a residence, this 1917 house has been remodeled numerous times, and it has sheltered many different ranch employees. Its current use is for employee housing. It is not open to the public.

Bunk House – The bunkhouse most often served as the residence for seasonal ranch employees. Very few stayed through the long winter, but in addition to the foremen, those remaining were allowed to bring their families and live in the bunkhouse, cookhouse or Honeymoon Hotel. The bunkhouse was remodeled in 1978 to accommodate workers from the Youth Conservation Corp.

Cookhouse – Several cookhouses were constructed over the years to feed the hungry ranch hands. This cookhouse, built in 1949, is complete with kitchen, dining area for 40, rooms for the cook and an upstairs apartment for the wintering families. The kitchen was remodeled in 1978 to conform to health regulations and is now a usable cooking facility for large groups.

Cattle Foreman's House – The cattle foreman's house, long known as the McGarry House, was built in the mid-1950's. Its most recent use has been for employee housing. It is not open to the public.

Ranch Office – The Railroad Ranch operation was overseen by a ranch manager who often worked or lived in this building. The furnishings left to the State included a large steel safe and a steel desk with tables dating back to the 1950's. Ranch records dating back to the creation of the Island Park Land and Cattle Company were kept in the office and are now part of the park archives.

Ranch Manager's House – This building originally served as shareholder Silas Eccles' clubhouse,

but in 1921, the building was remodeled as a residence for ranch manager James Anderson. Between 1929 and 1948, it was used strictly as overflow housing for the guests of Solomon Guggenheim. In later years, managers Dan Clark, Jr. and Ben Meese resided in the house and had it modernized. It features four bedrooms and a comfortable living room. Since 1998, it has been available for overnight lodging rental.

Barns and Sheds

Sheep Barn and Loafer Shed – A major sheep operation existed on the Ranch in the 1920's and 1930's. The first corral area and barn were used in later years as only a few sheep were kept for domestic needs.

Horse Barn – This structure was originally designed to house the large draft horses needed to pull equipment for the ranch operation. The stalls were built extra wide to hold up to eight work teams, plus there are two stud stalls to hold the stallions. Hay was stored in the upstairs loft, and saddles, bridles and other tack were kept in rooms downstairs.

Cow Barn – An elaborate dairy set-up designed for 24 cows is a unique feature of the Cow Barn.

Memories of Ranch Life in the Early 1900's

Rose Edginton worked for the Railroad Ranch from 1908 to 1921 as the ranch cook during the summers. With no electricity available at the time, meat was kept in the ice house and water was heated on the wood burning stove. Butter was churned from the ranch's dairy cows.

The gardens grew lovely during the summers. Weeds were no problem at all. The squirrels were the number one hassle. The women would wake up in the morning and attend to the garden ritual—shoot the squirrels with a 22 shotgun or trap them. The women were pretty good sharp shooters!

The vegetables were stored in an underground root cellar. Vegetables grown at the ranch included radishes, peas, onions, lettuce, cabbage and whatever else they could grow.

Rose would rise very early each morning to prepare the meals each day for the dudes, cowhands and families. The average wake-up time was 5:00 a.m.

Transportation during the winter was primarily by dog team and sled. During the summer, it was by horse and buggy.

The telephone came to the ranch in 1910. The wires were attached to the fences and trees.

During the quiet evenings gas lamps lighted the ranch. No one was outside after dark because of the bats. They were very heavy during those years. The quiet and solitude were not a problem. Folks were very good at entertaining themselves.



"Big Shop" was used as a park workshop and base of maintenance operation until it burned to the ground on January 28, 1980. Many antiques and much equipment was lost in the fire.

Unfortunately, records do not indicate whether a full-scale dairy operation ever existed at the Railroad Ranch.

Grainery – The Grainery was built elsewhere and relocated to its present location in 1952. As its name indicates, grains and salt were stored here.

Small Shop – The small shop was used for ranch storage and it also served as a tool shop. It may have originally been a bunkhouse, once located next to the present day Cookhouse. Apparently converted in 1935 to a shop, it was reinforced against heavy snowfall and moved to this location in 1952. Like many other ranch buildings, the small shop is heavily infested with bats and serves only storage purposes.

Equipment Storage/Tractor Shed – Since it was built, the large storage barn has been used to store haying mowers and rakes, snow scrapers, tractors, trucks and sleighs. The tractor shed was constructed to house a D-4 Caterpillar tractor, newly purchased in 1948.

Auto Garage – The auto garage originally served as a ranch shop but once automobiles became widely used in the 1930's and 1940's, it was enlarged to store various ranch vehicles.

Dude Barns – Located far from the operating ranch, the south and middle dude barns (originally owned by Solomon Guggenheim) and the north barn (owned by the Harrimans) were used to stable the owner's personal horses. Carriage sheds once existed between the barns to store their various buggies. Winter snows in 1932 and 1952 damaged the sheds beyond repair, but all the barns were strengthened to withstand snow. In 1980 the north barn was replaced with a dormitory building designed as a group sleeping facility.

Ancillary Structures

Corrals and Scale House – This full corral system was designed to accommodate the great fall cattle drives. The many pens were used to sort the cattle according to age, sex and brand. The corrals are still used today, as the ranch lessees round up their cattle every fall.

Meat Smoker – The metal smoker was used to smoke meat for the ranch tables – primarily those of the owners and their guests.

Bat House – The Bat House was especially designed and built as an attempt to lure the bats away from the ranch buildings. Although the Bat House was even lined with bat guano (manure), to this date no bat has been known to take up